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A SQUARE DEAL FOR N. C. CITIES AND TOWNS

Revaluation Act Will Benefit Local Government Next Year

More information on the tax question and the new revaluation act are contained in a statement given this newspaper this week by A. J. Maxwell, Insurance Commissioner. Mr. Maxwell says:—

"The State tax rate has been reduced this year to 11 2-3 cents. The average tax rate in the counties, including special taxes for various local purposes was 1.08 per cent in 1918. In most of the larger cities in the State the total rate is around 3 per cent. So that about 10 per cent of the taxes collected in the counties from property will be for the use of the State, and less than 5 per cent of total taxes collected from property in the cities is for the use of the State. The State is pursuing a policy of receding from the property tax, and looks now definitely to a complete abandonment of the property tax for its revenue, except for the public school tax, which will be distributed back to the counties. So that the chief purpose of the revaluation act is to furnish a more accurate, efficient and equitable means of revenue to meet the local needs of the counties and cities of the State. They will be the chief beneficiaries of its success.

A SQUARE DEAL FOR CITIES
The tax burden bears especially heavy in municipalities where so many modern improvements have been provided at public expense. It is in the cities especially that we hear the complaint that high tax rates are confiscating income from property, and a very great reduction in city tax rates is essential to the successful administration of the full value property tax system. The revaluation should leave the total combined tax rate in the highest taxed city in the State right close around one per cent.

There are three provisions that will become effective under the revaluation that will be interesting particularly to the municipalities, and that will tend to lower their rates.

Shares of stock in their banks have heretofore been distributed to the residence of the shareholder, wherever he lived. Now all the shares of stock in every bank will be taxed where the bank is located, against the bank, and therefore all the stock will be liable for municipal tax, and in the municipality where the bank is located.

Real estate and fixtures of telephone companies have been distributed on wire mileage. All such property now located within a municipality will be subject to the municipal tax.

Railroad depots, yards and terminal facilities have heretofore been assessed as a part of the total property distributed on main line track mileage, so that with a few slight exceptions they have paid town and city taxes only upon basis of the length of main line mileage within the corporate limits. Under the revaluation next year the value of all railroad properties within the corporate limits of city or town will be subject to municipal taxes.

GREATER FREEDOM IN EUROPE THAN U. S. A.

Frederic C. Howe Found Greater Freedom of Discussion in Europe Than in America

Here is food for thought for readers of THE INDEPENDENT:—

Frederic C. Howe, commissioner of immigration of the port of New York, who returned last week from three months in Paris, England, Belgium, Germany and Italy, told of conditions in Germany and the difficulties involved in bringing about a stable condition in Europe. He said the thing that struck him most forcibly on returning was the difference between America and the countries visited in regard to the free discussion of economic and political problems. Over there, he said, even the allied commanders of the American, French and British armies of occupation permit the Germans "to express their opinions, publish proclamations and discuss their affairs with freedom."

"It was like a plunge into cold water to come home and find freedom of speech under the ban and the press and government agencies sitting on the throttle as though some terrible calamity would happen if people got together and discussed things which some other people in authority thought ought not to be talked about," said Mr. Howe. "This is the most depressing thing about America and the most extraordinary thing about Europe where one would have supposed free discussion to be under police and official surveillance. There people discussed problems of economics, industry, and politics with the utmost freedom."

"In England public meetings were being held from one end of the country to the other. I found the English press discussing subjects more frankly than the American press, and public opinion accepting such discussion by labor, socialists, or any group whatsoever, a perfectly natural and proper. England seemed ashamed of the few instances of suppression of freedom of speech which had occurred, and did not like to talk about the illegal imprisonment of the Irish who were being held, even though elected to Parliament. That's the way England treats political questions. She has so much sanity, and believes that orderly development can only come about thru the old Anglo-Saxon method of discussion and debate on the part of all classes. And while relatively few persons were in jail or political offenders or conscientious objectors there was a strong movement, backed by some of the most influential and conservative people, to bring about their release."

"All parts of Europe which I visited seemed to have a higher regard for the rights of free speech and assemblage and for a free press than does America."

A Schoolhouse.
What a schoolhouse is the world, if our wits would only not play truant!—Lowell.

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Mild? Sure!—and yet they "Satisfy"

Chesterfield CIGARETTES

of IMPORTED and DOMESTIC tobaccos—Blended



The extra wrapper of glassine paper keeps 'em Fresh

BOL - SHE - VEEK!

By EDMUND VANCE COOKE

(Government requests that all citizens desist from the use of nicknames, such as "Wop," or "Mickey," "Dago," "Guinea," and so forth.—Recent Associated Press dispatch.)

I mustn't call you "Miky" and you mustn't call me "Wop." For Uncle Sammy says it's wrong and hints we ought to stop; But don't you fret, there's still one name that I'm allowed to speak. So when I disagree with you I'll call you Bol-she-veik! week! week!

It's a scream and it's a shriek; It's a rapid fire response to any here-say you squeak. A little while ago, at any time I might determine, I didn't like your theories. I called you "pro" and "German;" But times are changed and appellations quickly grew antique. So now I have a better name: I call you "Bolshevik!" week! week!

Your brains have sprung a leak! Your new ideas are redolent of Russia's crazy clique. No, I mustn't call you "nigger," and I mustn't call you "ninnny." It's plainly impolite to dub you "dago," "wop" and "guinea;" But whenever I perceive your mental mixtures growing weak I joyfully arise and proclaim you Bol-shevik! Bolshevik! week! week! It's a classical critique; It says more in a week than you can answer in a week.

You believe in votes for women? Yah! The Bolsheviks do. And shorter hours? And land reforms? They're Bolshevik too. "The Recall" and other things like that are dangerous to seek; Don't tell me you believe 'em or I'll call you Bolshevik! Bolshevik! week! week!

A reformer is a freak! But here's a name to stop him, for it's like a lightning streak.

"B" stands for Bolshevism and the reason that it stings Is because the Bolsheviks do some stupid, wicked things; And so it's plain your mental marches run at left oblique. If I can hang a tag on you and call you Bolshevik! Bolshevik! week! week! It's a bingle on the peak! I mustn't call you names, so I shall call you Bolshevik!

Two Things He Remembered.
The proprietor and editor of a certain local paper had been indulging in a little plain talk and prophesying disaster to the little town if certain improvements and sanitary reforms were not forthwith adopted. A local parson sided with the rural council which neglected these things and, after a sermon, evidently pointed at the newspaper man, said: "You should remember the fate of Balaam." "I do," was the prompt reply from the pew, "and I also remember who it was that warned the prophet."

SERG. FRANK LYNCH GETS BACK FROM "OVER THERE"

Sergeant Frank S. Lynch, of Newland Township, has reached America after seven months in France. He went over last July with the 321st Infantry and was in the front line trenches for some time. Just before the armistice was signed he was transferred to an officers' training school and was stationed for awhile at Menton, France, on the Mediterranean Sea. His window overlooked this historic shore.

He began on the homeward stretch early in January, visited the cities of Layan, Nice and Monte Carlo. And after riding in box cars for many days and nights reached Brest, France. There he was placed on the old U. S. S. S. Georgia and on February 19th, steered westward to America, reaching Newport News on April 2nd. From there he goes to Camp Lee to be demobilized. Sergt. Lynch, went over with many of the home boys, but, on the return trip was among strangers as those he knew had paid the supreme sacrifice or were transferred to other Companies.

He has returned sound and without blemish and soon will greet the many friends and dear old mother who await his coming.

Daily Thought.
Poverty is in want of much, but avarice of everything.—Publius Syrus

No Wasting of Bar Soap!

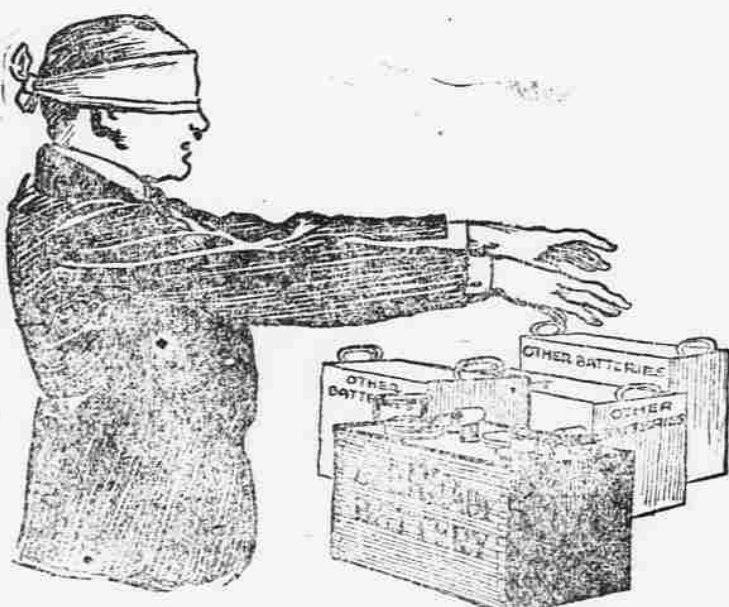


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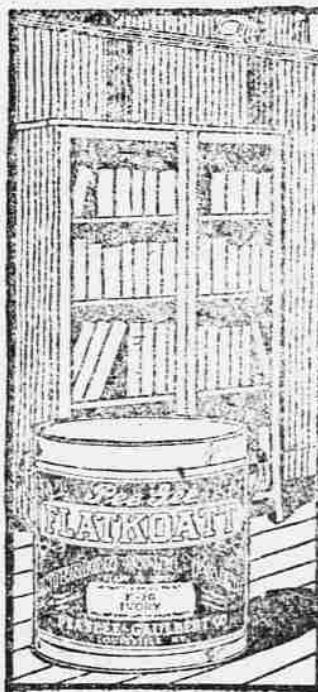
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